

Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
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ICA-11 EB-08 TRSE-00 ACDA-12 NEA-10 HA-05 OMB-01
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R 270750Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6417
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
USMISSION USNATO
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 BELGRADE 3279

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, YA, TU
SUBJECT: VISIT OF TURKISH PRIME MINISTER ECEVIT TO YUGOSLAVIA

1. SUMMARY: IN COURSE OF FOUR-DAY VISIT TO YUGOSLAVIA
TURKISH PRIME MINISTER ECEVIT MET WITH TITO AND OTHER
HIGH GOY OFFICIALS. PRIMARY TOPICS OF DISCUSSION WERE CYPRUS
AND BILATERAL AFFAIRS. DESPITE ROSY PRESS COVERAGE,
TURKISH EMBASSY SOURCE DESCRIBED THE TALKS AS "A FAILURE":
THE TURKS WERE NOT ABLE TO MAKE PROGRESS IN MOVING THE
YUGOSLAVS TO A MORE "BALANCED" STAND ON CYPRUS AND
BILATERAL COOPERATION REMAINS LIMITED. END SUMMARY.

2. TURKISH PRIME MINISTER ECEVIT PAID A FOUR-DAY VISIT TO
YUGOSLAVIA APRIL 13-16, DURING WHICH HE MET WITH TITO,
KARDELJ, FEDERAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL PRESIDENT
DJURANOVIC, FOREIGN MINISTER MINIC, AND HIGH FEDERAL
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ECONOMIC OFFICIALS. MEETING WITH TITO WAS HELD AT LATTER'S
HUNTING LODGE AT BUGOJNO IN BOSNIA. ECEVIT ALSO MET WITH
BOSNIAN LEADERS AND, IN SKOPJE, WITH MACEDONIAN LEADERS.

3. DISCUSSION TOPIECS WERE: CYPRUS, BILATERAL
ECONOMIC/ CULTURAL COOPERATION, TREATMENT OF THE
TURKISH MINORITY IN YUGOSLAVIA, BALKAN COOPERATION,

DETENTE AND DISARMAMENT, MIDDLE EAST, AND NIEO. OF THESE, THE FIRST TWO OCCUPIED THE MAJORITY OF TIME.

A) CYPRUS-- THE TWO PARTIES AGREED THAT A CYPRUS SOLUTION SHOULD BE BASED ON THE "LASTING NON-ALIGNMENT, INDEPENDENCE, AND SOVEREIGNTY" OF CYPRUS BUT OTHERWISE FOUND NO COMMON GROUND. THE TURKS PRESENTED THEIR NEW PROPOSALS FOR A CYPRUS SETTLEMENT. THE YUGOSLAVS REMAINED PUBLICLY SILENT ON THE POSSIBLE SHAPE OF A FUTURE CYPRIOT STATE, RESTRICTING THEMSELVES TO A CALL FOR "CONSTRUCTIVE AND SUBSTANTIVE" TALKS IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

B) BILATERAL ECONOMIC/CULTURAL COOPERATION-- MINOR AGREEMENTS WERE REACHED ON PURSUING SCIENTIFIC, CULTURAL AND MEDIA COOPERATION. SEVERAL SPECIFIC FORMS OF INDUSTRIAL AND COMMERCIAL COOPERATION, E.G., SHIPBUILDING, ENERGY, TRANSPORT, SOCIAL AND HEALTH SERVICES, WERE CONSIDERED BUT POSTPONED FOR FURTHER CONSULTATIONS BETWEEN TEAMS OF EXPERTS.

C) BALKAN COOPERATION -- BOTH SIDES PAID HOMAGE TO THE CONCEPT BUT NEITHER MADE CONCRETE PROPOSALS TOWARD ENLARGING SUCH COOPERATION.

D) DETENTE AND DISARMAMENT --- THE IMPORTANCE OF DETENTE AS A LASTING PROCESS AND EFFECTIVE DISARMAMENT AS NECESSARY FOR PEACEFUL DEVELOPMENT OF HUMAN SOCIETY WAS NOTED.
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E) NIEO -- ECEVIT ENDORSED THE CREATION OF A NEW ECONOMIC ORDER, AGREED THAT IT WAS OBTAINABLE ONLY BY "MEANS OF THE SOLIDARITY AND RECIPROCAL COOPERATION OF THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES" AND EXPLICITLY CATEGORIZED TURKEY AS A DEVELOPING COUNTRY.

F) MIDDLE EAST -- BOTH SIDES AGREED ON URGENT NECESSITY FOR PEACE AND CALLED FOR ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL FROM ALL OCCUPIED TERRITORIES AND THE ENSURING OF THE LEGITIMATE NATIONAL RIGHTS OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE INCLUDING THEIR RIGHT TO THEIR OWN STATE.

G) TURKISH MINORITY -- TURKS EXPRESSED BELIEF THAT TREATMENT OF THE TURKISH MINORITY WAS ACCEPTABLE AND A "BRIDGE BETWEEN" THE TWO PEOPLES. ECEVIT'S VISIT TO MACEDONIA WHERE MAJORITY OF TURKISH MINORITY HERE RESIDES WAS TAKEN IN THOSE TERMS.

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4. PRESS COVERAGE OF THE VISIT WAS SUBSTANTIAL AND FAVORABLE, PAINTING A GLOWING PICTURE OF YUGOSLAV-TURKISH AMITY AND COOPERATION, AS DID THE FINAL COMMUNIQUE. TURKISH EMBOFF PRESENTED A DARKER PORTRAIT IN SUBSEQUENT CONVERSATION WITH EMBOFF. HE INDICATED THAT THE VISIT WAS A YUGOSLAV INITIATIVE ACCEDED TO WITHOUT MUCH ENTHUSIASM BY ECEVIT. HE DESCRIBED THE MAIN TURKISH MOTIVE AS BEING AN ATTEMPT TO BRING THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT, THROUGH YUGOSLAVIA, TO TAKE A MORE BALANCED STANCE ON CYPRUS. HE CHARACTERIZED THIS ATTEMPT AS A TOTAL FAILURE, WITH THE YUGOSLAVS SHOWING NO SYMPATHY FOR THE TURKISH POSITION. HE STATED ALSO THAT THE YUGOSLAVS REVEALED THEMSELVES AS UNCOOPERATIVE IN UNDERTAKING MEASURES TO REDUCE THE TRADE SURPLUS THEY ENJOY WITH TURKEY. BALKAN COOPERATION HE SAW AS TOTALLY MORIBUND (ALTHOUGH HE DID NOT FAULT YUGOSLAVS). HE COMPLAINED BITTERLY THAT DESPITE THE HIGH LEVEL OF TALKS THE CONVERSATIONS WERE WORTHLESS AND THE PROGRAM A "WASTE
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OF TIME." YUGOSLAV FSFA OFFICIAL, WHO SMILED WHEN HE NOTED THAT TURKS AND SOUTH SLAVS HAVE HAD "LONG HISTORY OF RELATIONS," DESCRIBED VISIT AS "USEFUL" BUT IMPLIED THAT

LITTLE OF A CONCRETE NATURE EMERGED. ON CYPRUS HE SAID THAT THE ISSUE WAS ONE FOR THE TWO COMMUNITIES TO SOLVE BETWEEN THEMSELVES AND IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE RELEVANT U.N. RESOLUTIONS. ON NON-ALIGNMENT, HE SAID "NOT MUCH" CAME UP, WITH YUGOSLAVS REVIEWING THE NAM AND TURKS LISTENING.

5. IT IS UNCLEAR WHAT PURPOSE THE YUGOSLAVS HAD IN INVITING ECEVIT BESIDES NORMAL INTERCHANGE WITH A BALKAN NEAR-NEIGHBOR AND FILLING IN AN EMPTY SLOT IN TITO'S SCHEDULE. FSFA OFFICIAL SUGGESTED THAT YUGOSLAVS FELT MORE COMFORTABLE DEALING WITH ECEVIT THAN A MORE CONSERVATIVE TURKISH LEADER. HOWEVER, YUGOSLAVS HAVE BEEN CAREFUL NOT TO INVOLVE THEMSELVES IN CYPRUS NEGOTIATIONS AND DO NOT APPEAR AT ALL ANXIOUS TO CONVERT TURKEY TO NON-ALIGNMENT. THE CULTURAL AND ECONOMIC AGREEMENTS REACHED DID NOT WARRANT SUCH A HIGH LEVEL DELEGATION AND NEW INITIATIVES IN BALKAN COOPERATION DO NOT SEEM TO HAVE BEEN PUT FORWARD.
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